

and Uganda, saving lives and preventing illnesses for thousands of individuals.

R. Patrick DeGroot, deputy product manager, Department of the Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, MD, helped America's war fighters achieve mission success and stay out of harm's way by developing and deploying a new mobile communications network that gives Army units continuous connectivity on the battlefield.

Jonathan Gandomi, former field representative for the counter-Lord's Resistance Army mission, Department of State, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations Washington, DC, coordinated U.S. efforts to end the atrocities of the Lord's Resistance Army, one of Africa's oldest and most brutal extremist groups, and help victims overcome decades of violence.

Dr. Rana A. Hajjeh and the Hib Initiative Team, Director, Division of Bacterial Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, led a global campaign to convince some of the world's poorest countries to use a vaccine to fight bacterial meningitis and pneumonia, an initiative that is estimated to save the lives of 7 million children by 2020.

Sean C. Young and Benjamin J. Tran, electronics engineers, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH saved U.S. soldiers' lives in Afghanistan by creating and deploying a new aerial sensor system to help Army and Special Forces units detect and destroy deadly improvised explosive devices.

This is your tax dollars at work.

Science and Environment Medal finalists are Federal employees who have made significant contributions to the Nation in activities related to science and environment, including biomedicine, economics, energy, information technology, meteorology, resource conservation, and space.

William A. Bauman, M.D. and Ann M. Spungen, Ph.D., Director, Bauman, and Associate Director, Spungen, National Center of Excellence for the Medical Consequences of Spinal Cord Injury, Department of Veterans Affairs, James J. Peters VA Medical Center Bronx, NY, greatly improved the health care and the quality of life of paralyzed veterans by developing new ways to treat long-overlooked medical problems.

William Charmley and James Tamm, Division Director, Assessment and Standards Division, Charmley, and Chief, Fuel Economy Division, Tamm, Environmental Protection Agency, Charmley; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Tamm, Ann Arbor, MI, Charmley; Washington, DC, Tamm, led an interagency team that developed standards for cars and light trucks that will double fuel economy by 2025 and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 6 billion metric tons;

John Cymbalsky, program manager, Appliance and Equipment Standards, Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,

Washington, D.C., brought together industry and environmental groups to adopt new efficiency standards for appliances and commercial equipment that will save consumers money and reduce energy consumption and air pollution.

Richard Rast, senior engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM, developed a new, low-cost method of locating and tracking space debris that could severely damage or destroy spacecraft and vital communications, navigation, and weather satellites.

Jeffrey Rogers, program manager, Ret., Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Arlington, VA, created a wearable sensor that provides real-time information on the risk of traumatic brain injuries to soldiers exposed to bomb blasts, resulting in quicker medical treatment and uncovering previously undiagnosed injuries.

This is your tax dollars at work.

The individuals I have just named are the best of the best. But they would be the first to acknowledge that they stand on the shoulders of many colleagues. Yet these men and women who have done so much in service to the American people have endured pay freezes, furloughs, benefit cuts, a government shutdown, and shrinking budgets. The Service to America Medals finalists—and countless other dedicated public servants across our country—strive to serve their fellow citizens every day. They remind us why we pay taxes. It is important that we pause to reflect on their contributions, celebrate their successes, and give thanks for their service and their devotion to helping create and sustain a civilized society.●

SMITH-LEVER ACT CENTENNIAL

● Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to mark the centennial of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act.

The Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, a vital nationwide system of educational partnerships that brings together Federal, State and local governments and land-grant universities.

This network is administered by The Pennsylvania State University in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania.

Access to the Cooperative Extension Program provides valuable information, resources and educational programs to communities on a broad range of issues.

As agriculture is Pennsylvania's No. 1 industry, this program continues to serve as a valuable resource for agricultural producers, small business owners, students, consumers, and communities of all sizes.

The Cooperative Extension Program helps to maintain and support the agricultural industry, while utilizing innovative research and technologies to advance the future of the industry.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act.●

CONGRATULATING STEVE AND CAROLYN COBURN

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I wish to recognize Nevada's own Steve and Carolyn Coburn for their recent victory at the 139th Kentucky Derby with their co-owned horse, California Chrome. California Chrome was the victor by 1¾ lengths, and as a fellow horse owner, it gave me great pride to watch a Nevadan-owned horse win this coveted title.

Steve Coburn, an Army veteran, and Carolyn Coburn are both Douglas County residents who took a chance 5 years ago when they became part-owners in California Chrome's mother, Love the Chase, as an investment opportunity. Although Love the Chase failed as a thoroughbred in the eyes of the industry, the Coburns and other co-owners decided to breed her, resulting in California Chrome, the humble-beginnings horse who turned out to be a champion.

California Chrome does not only win races, but he has become an integral member of the Coburn family. Every few weeks, the Coburns made the drive from their rural Nevada home to watch their foal grow into a champion and never had a doubt that he was special. His track record of 10 career starts and 6 first-place finishes proves their predictions right.

As a fellow horse enthusiast, I appreciate the unique roles horses play as companion animals, as well as an important part of the commercial horse racing industry. I know the citizens of the "Silver State" are proud to see humble Nevadans succeed in making their dream of having a winning horse come true. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steve and Carolyn for this unparalleled victory and wish California Chrome the best in his future racing endeavors.●

EMMET COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big

difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Emmet County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Emmet County worth over \$4.5 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$15.5 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be the community's commitment work to secure Harkin wellness grants. From increasing physical activity to promoting workplace wellness and educating students about the dangers of tobacco, this funding has provided the key to reducing health care costs and helping Iowans live a longer, happier life. Through the five programs included in the Lifestyle Challenge, participants lost a collective 3,467 pounds and clocked 23,911 hours of activity. Emmet County has been at the forefront of this effort, so I look forward to learning how they have implemented healthier living in their community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Emmet County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Emmet County, I have fought for over \$1.3 million for the Iowa Great Lakes Community College for work on renewable energy programs, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That's why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and

private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Emmet County has received \$3.3 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Emmet County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$175,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Emmet County has received more than \$1.4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as—for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Emmet County's fire departments have received over \$660,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Emmet County has recognized this important issue by securing \$120,000 in wellness grants.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Emmet County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, co-operation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Emmet County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after

I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

DICKINSON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Dickinson County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Dickinson County worth over \$3.4 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$11.4 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction, renovation, and fire safety through the Harkin school grants and Star Schools programs. Working together with state and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe, and modern. I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Dickinson County.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Dickinson County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments